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June 25, 2003

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Jeff S. Jordan
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
2003 JUN 26 A 10:31

Re: MUR 5366

Dear Mr. Jordan

Please accept this letter in response to your letter concerning the "complaint" filed with the Federal Elections Commission by the American Conservative Union. Neither the "complaint" nor the attached articles make any specific allegations against Wilkes & McHugh. One article, in a publication called The Hill, stated, that Elaine Reeves gave \$2,000.00 to Edwards, and that she is an Office Manager at Wilkes & McHugh, a Tampa based firm specializing in Nursing Home abuse litigation. It also stated that Elaine Reeves contributed \$1,000.00 to Clinton-Gore, that her husband also contributed \$2,000.00 to Edwards, but that she and her husband are registered Republicans. It further stated that she and her husband bought a home for \$99,000.00 in 1996, with a mortgage of \$94,000.00 and an assessed value of \$95,352.00, suggesting by implication that she and her husband could not afford to make the contributions they made.

None of the other articles mention Wilkes & McHugh or Elaine Reeves.

Elaine Reeves has worked for Wilkes & McHugh for 18 years. Mrs. Reeves earned approximately last year. She has not been reimbursed for her contribution to the Edwards Campaign. She has not been promised any reimbursement. The firm of Wilkes & McHugh has no intention of reimbursing her for her contribution. She contributed of her own free will.

It is offensive that a political organization like American Conservative Union is attempting to use the Federal Election Commission to investigate contributions to a candidate like John Edwards who espouses positions directly contrary to theirs.

John Edwards has fought for the rights of the common citizen first as a trial lawyer, and now as a Senator and candidate for President. The current administration has made it clear that it is an adversary of trial lawyers and the current civil tort system in this

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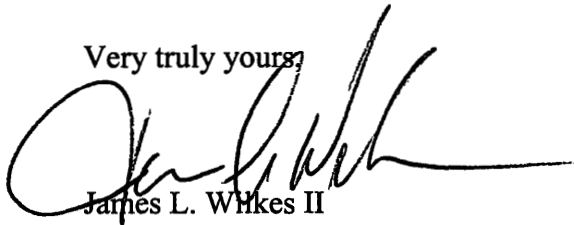
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country. It should come as no surprise that Elaine Reeves would support John Edwards since she has worked for a firm of trial lawyers for the last 18 years.

Regardless of one's personal position on these issues, the American Conservative Union should not be allowed to abuse the process of the Federal Elections Commission by filing an unfounded complaint against Wilkes & McHugh and Elaine Reeves based upon an article that itself is vague and full of innuendo.

Wilkes & McHugh requests that this matter be closed without any further investigation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Wilkes II", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James L. Wilkes II

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